Calendar No. 238

107TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 1732

To provide incentives for an economic recovery and relief for victims of terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 27, 2001

Mr. Daschle introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

NOVEMBER 28, 2001

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To provide incentives for an economic recovery and relief for victims of terrorism, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Economic Recovery and Assistance for American Work-
- 6 ers Act of 2001".
- 7 (b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents of
- 8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—TEMPORARY ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- Sec. 101. Short title.
- Sec. 102. Federal-State agreements.
- Sec. 103. Temporary supplemental unemployment compensation account.
- Sec. 104. Payments to States having agreements under this title.
- Sec. 105. Financing provisions.
- Sec. 106. Fraud and overpayments.
- Sec. 107. Definitions.
- Sec. 108. Applicability.
- Sec. 109. Rule of construction regarding changes to State law.

TITLE II—HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OPTIONS FOR RECENTLY UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Sec. 201. Premium assistance for COBRA continuation coverage for individuals and their families.
- Sec. 202. State option to provide temporary medicaid coverage for certain uninsured individuals.
- Sec. 203. State option to provide temporary coverage under medicaid for the unsubsidized portion of COBRA continuation premiums.
- Sec. 204. Temporary increases of medicaid FMAP for fiscal year 2002.
- Sec. 205. Definitions.

1 TITLE I—TEMPORARY EN-

2 HANCED UNEMPLOYMENT

3 **BENEFITS**

- 4 SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.
- 5 This title may be cited as the "Temporary Unemploy-
- 6 ment Compensation Act of 2001".
- 7 SEC. 102. FEDERAL-STATE AGREEMENTS.
- 8 (a) In General.—Any State which desires to do so
- 9 may enter into and participate in an agreement under this
- 10 title with the Secretary of Labor (in this title referred to
- 11 as the "Secretary"). Any State which is a party to an
- 12 agreement under this title may, upon providing 30 days'
- 13 written notice to the Secretary, terminate such agreement.
- 14 (b) Provisions of Agreement.—

1	(1) In General.—Any agreement under sub-
2	section (a) shall provide that the State agency of the
3	State will make—
4	(A) payments of temporary enhanced reg-
5	ular unemployment compensation to individuals;
6	and
7	(B) payments of temporary supplemental
8	unemployment compensation to individuals
9	who—
10	(i) have—
11	(I) exhausted all rights to regular
12	compensation under the State law (or,
13	as the case may be, all rights to tem-
14	porary enhanced regular unemploy-
15	ment compensation); or
16	(II) received 26 weeks of regular
17	compensation under the State law (or,
18	as the case may be, 26 weeks of tem-
19	porary enhanced regular unemploy-
20	ment compensation);
21	(ii) do not have any rights to regular
22	compensation under the State law of any
23	other State (or to temporary enhanced reg-
24	ular unemployment compensation); and

1	(iii) are not receiving compensation
2	under the unemployment compensation law
3	of any other country.
4	(2) Temporary enhanced regular unem-
5	PLOYMENT COMPENSATION DEFINED.—For purposes
6	of this title, the term "temporary enhanced regular
7	unemployment compensation" means compensation
8	in amounts and to the extent that regular compensa-
9	tion would be determined if the State law was ap-
10	plied with the following 3 conditions:
11	(A) ALTERNATIVE BASE PERIOD.—An in-
12	dividual shall be eligible for regular compensa-
13	tion if the individual would be so eligible, deter-
14	mined by applying—
15	(i) the base period that would other-
16	wise apply under the State law if this title
17	had not been enacted; or
18	(ii) a base period ending at the close
19	of the calendar quarter most recently com-
20	pleted before the date of the individual's
21	application for benefits, provided that wage
22	data for that quarter has been reported to
23	the State or supplied to the State agency
24	on behalf of the individual;
25	whichever results in the greater amount.

1	(B) Part-time employment.—An indi-
2	vidual shall not be denied regular compensation
3	under the State law's provisions relating to
4	availability for work, active search for work, or
5	refusal to accept work, solely by virtue of the
6	fact that such individual is seeking, or is avail-
7	able for, only part-time (and not full-time)
8	work, if—
9	(i) the individual's employment on
10	which eligibility for the regular compensa-
11	tion is based was part-time employment; or
12	(ii) the individual can show good
13	cause for seeking, or being available for,
14	only part-time (and not full-time) work.
15	(C) Increased benefits.—
16	(i) In general.—The amount of reg-
17	ular compensation (including dependents'
18	allowances) payable for any week shall be
19	equal to the amount determined under the
20	State law (before the application of this
21	subparagraph), plus an amount equal to
22	the greater of—
23	(I) 15 percent of the amount so
24	determined; or
25	(II) \$25.

1	(ii) Rounding.—For purposes of de-
2	termining the amount under clause (i)(I),
3	such amount shall be rounded to the dollar
4	amount specified under State law.
5	(c) Nonreduction Rule.—Under the agreement,
6	subsection $(b)(2)(C)$ shall not apply (or shall cease to
7	apply) with respect to a State upon a determination by
8	the Secretary that the method governing the computation
9	of regular compensation under the State law of that State
10	has been modified in a way such that the average weekly
11	amount of regular compensation which will be payable
12	during the period of the agreement (determined dis-
13	regarding any temporary enhanced regular unemployment
14	compensation) will be less than the average weekly amount
15	of regular compensation which would otherwise have been
16	payable during such period under the State law, as in ef-
17	fect on September 11, 2001.
18	(d) Coordination Rules.—
19	(1) Regular compensation payable under
20	A FEDERAL LAW.—The conditions described in sub-
21	paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (b)(2)
22	shall also apply in determining the amount of bene-
23	fits payable under any Federal law to the extent

that those benefits are determined by reference to

- regular compensation payable under the State law of the State involved.
 - (2) Temporary supplemental unemployMent compensation to serve as second-tier
 Benefits.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
 law, neither regular compensation, temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation, extended compensation, nor additional unemployment
 compensation under any Federal or State law shall
 be payable to any individual for any week for which
 temporary supplemental unemployment compensation is payable to such individual.
 - (3) Treatment of other unemployment compensation.—After the date on which a State enters into an agreement under this title, any regular compensation (or, as the case may be, temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation) in excess of 26 weeks, any extended compensation, and any additional compensation under any Federal or State law shall be payable to an individual in accordance with the State law after such individual has exhausted any rights to temporary supplemental unemployment compensation under the agreement.

1	(e) Exhaustion of Benefits.—For purposes of
2	subsection $(b)(1)(B)(i)(I)$, an individual shall be consid-
3	ered to have exhausted such individual's rights to regular
4	compensation (or, as the case may be, rights to temporary
5	enhanced regular unemployment compensation) under a
6	State law when—
7	(1) no payments of regular compensation can
8	be made under such law because the individual has
9	received all such compensation available to the indi-
10	vidual based on employment or wages during the in-
11	dividual's base period; or
12	(2) the individual's rights to such compensation
13	have been terminated by reason of the expiration of
14	the benefit year with respect to which such rights
15	existed.
16	(f) Weekly Benefit Amount, Terms and Condi-
17	TIONS, ETC. RELATING TO TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTAL
18	Unemployment Compensation.—For purposes of any
19	agreement under this title—
20	(1) the amount of temporary supplemental un-
21	employment compensation which shall be payable to
22	an individual for any week of total unemployment
23	shall be equal to—
24	(A) the amount of regular compensation
25	(including dependents' allowances) payable to

- such individual under the State law for a week for total unemployment during such individual's benefit year; plus
 - (B) the amount of any temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation payable to such individual for a week for total unemployment during such individual's benefit year;
 - (2) the terms and conditions of the State law which apply to claims for regular compensation and to the payment thereof shall apply to claims for temporary supplemental unemployment compensation and the payment thereof, except where inconsistent with the provisions of this title or with the regulations or operating instructions of the Secretary promulgated to carry out this title; and
 - (3) the maximum amount of temporary supplemental unemployment compensation payable to any individual for whom a temporary supplemental unemployment compensation account is established under section 103 shall not exceed the amount established in such account for such individual.

1	SEC. 103. TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT
2	COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.
3	(a) In General.—Any agreement under this title
4	shall provide that the State will establish, for each eligible
5	individual who files an application for temporary supple-
6	mental unemployment compensation, a temporary supple-
7	mental unemployment compensation account.
8	(b) Amount in Account.—
9	(1) In general.—The amount established in
10	an account under subsection (a) shall be equal to the
11	greater of—
12	(A) 50 percent of—
13	(i) the total amount of regular com-
14	pensation (including dependents' allow-
15	ances) payable to the individual during the
16	individual's benefit year under such law;
17	plus
18	(ii) the amount of any temporary en-
19	hanced regular unemployment compensa-
20	tion payable to the individual during the
21	individual's benefit year; or
22	(B) 13 times the individual's weekly ben-
23	efit amount.
24	(2) Weekly benefit amount.—For purposes
25	of paragraph (1)(B), an individual's weekly benefit
26	amount for any week is an amount equal to—

1	(A) the amount of regular compensation
2	(including dependents' allowances) under the
3	State law payable to the individual for such
4	week for total unemployment; plus
5	(B) the amount of any temporary en-
6	hanced regular unemployment compensation
7	payable to the individual for such week for total
8	unemployment.
9	SEC. 104. PAYMENTS TO STATES HAVING AGREEMENTS
10	UNDER THIS TITLE.
11	(a) GENERAL RULE.—There shall be paid to each
12	State which has entered into an agreement under this title
13	an amount equal to—
14	(1) 100 percent of any temporary enhanced reg-
15	ular unemployment compensation made payable to
16	individuals by such State by virtue of the conditions
17	which are described in section $102(b)(2)$ and deemed
18	to be in effect with respect to such State pursuant
19	to such section;
20	(2) 100 percent of any regular compensation—
21	(A) which is paid to individuals by such
22	State by reason of the fact that its State law
23	contains provisions comparable to the condi-
24	tions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)
25	of section 102(b)(2); but only

- 1 (B) to the extent that those amounts 2 would, if such amounts were instead payable by 3 virtue of the State law's being deemed to be in 4 compliance with such conditions pursuant to 5 such section, have been reimbursable under 6 paragraph (1); and
- 7 (3) 100 percent of the temporary supplemental 8 unemployment compensation paid to individuals by 9 the State pursuant to such agreement.
- 10 (b) Determination of Amount.—Sums under subsection (a) payable to any State by reason of such State 11 12 having an agreement under this title shall be payable, either in advance or by way of reimbursement (as may be determined by the Secretary), in such amounts as the Sec-14 15 retary estimates the State will be entitled to receive under this title for each calendar month, reduced or increased, 16 17 as the case may be, by any amount by which the Secretary finds that the Secretary's estimates for any prior calendar 18 19 month were greater or less than the amounts which should 20 have been paid to the State. Such estimates may be made 21 on the basis of such statistical, sampling, or other method 22 as may be agreed upon by the Secretary and the State 23 agency of the State involved.
- 24 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, ETC.—There is 25 hereby appropriated, without fiscal year limitation, out of

- 1 the employment security administration account of the
- 2 Unemployment Trust Fund (as established by section
- 3 901(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1101(a)))
- 4 \$500,000,000 to reimburse States for the costs of the ad-
- 5 ministration of agreements under this title (including any
- 6 improvements in technology in connection therewith) and
- 7 to provide reemployment services to unemployment com-
- 8 pensation claimants in States having agreements under
- 9 this title. Each State's share of the amount appropriated
- 10 by the preceding sentence shall be determined by the Sec-
- 11 retary according to the factors described in section 302(a)
- 12 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501(a)) and certified
- 13 by the Secretary to the Secretary of the Treasury.

14 SEC. 105. FINANCING PROVISIONS.

- 15 (a) In General.—Funds in the extended unemploy-
- 16 ment compensation account (as established by section
- 17 905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1105(a))),
- 18 and the Federal unemployment account (as established by
- 19 section 904(g) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1104(g))), of the
- 20 Unemployment Trust Fund (as established by section
- 21 904(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1104(a))) shall be used,
- 22 in accordance with subsection (b), for the making of pay-
- 23 ments (described in section 104(a)) to States having
- 24 agreements entered into under this title.

- 1 (b) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall from time
- 2 to time certify to the Secretary of the Treasury for pay-
- 3 ment to each State the sums described in section 104(a)
- 4 which are payable to such State under this title. The Sec-
- 5 retary of the Treasury, prior to audit or settlement by the
- 6 General Accounting Office, shall make payments to the
- 7 State in accordance with such certification by transfers
- 8 from the extended unemployment compensation account,
- 9 as so established (or, to the extent that there are insuffi-
- 10 cient funds in that account, from the Federal unemploy-
- 11 ment account, as so established) to the account of such
- 12 State in the Unemployment Trust Fund (as so estab-
- 13 lished).

14 SEC. 106. FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENTS.

- 15 (a) IN GENERAL.—If an individual knowingly has
- 16 made, or caused to be made by another, a false statement
- 17 or representation of a material fact, or knowingly has
- 18 failed, or caused another to fail, to disclose a material fact,
- 19 and as a result of such false statement or representation
- 20 or of such nondisclosure such individual has received any
- 21 temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation
- 22 or temporary supplemental unemployment compensation
- 23 under this title to which such individual was not entitled,
- 24 such individual—

1	(1) shall be ineligible for any further benefits
2	under this title in accordance with the provisions of
3	the applicable State unemployment compensation
4	law relating to fraud in connection with a claim for
5	unemployment compensation; and
6	(2) shall be subject to prosecution under section
7	1001 of title 18, United States Code.
8	(b) Repayment.—In the case of individuals who
9	have received any temporary enhanced regular unemploy-
10	ment compensation or temporary supplemental unemploy-
11	ment compensation under this title to which such individ-
12	uals were not entitled, the State shall require such individ-
13	uals to repay those benefits to the State agency, except
14	that the State agency may waive such repayment if it de-
15	termines that—
16	(1) the payment of such benefits was without
17	fault on the part of any such individual; and
18	(2) such repayment would be contrary to equity
19	and good conscience.
20	(c) Recovery by State Agency.—
21	(1) In General.—The State agency may re-
22	cover the amount to be repaid, or any part thereof,
23	by deductions from any regular compensation, tem-
24	porary enhanced regular unemployment compensa-

tion, or temporary supplemental unemployment com-

pensation payable to such individual under this title or from any unemployment compensation payable to such individual under any Federal unemployment compensation law administered by the State agency or under any other Federal law administered by the State agency which provides for the payment of any assistance or allowance with respect to any week of unemployment, during the 3-year period after the date such individuals received the payment of the temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation or temporary supplemental unemployment compensation to which such individuals were not entitled, except that no single deduction may exceed 50 percent of the weekly benefit amount from which such deduction is made.

- (2) OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING.—No repayment shall be required, and no deduction shall be made, until a determination has been made, notice thereof and an opportunity for a fair hearing has been given to the individual, and the determination has become final.
- 22 (d) Review.—Any determination by a State agency 23 under this section shall be subject to review in the same 24 manner and to the same extent as determinations under

1	the State unemployment compensation law, and only in
2	that manner and to that extent.
3	SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS.
4	In this title the terms "compensation", "regular com-
5	pensation", "extended compensation", "additional com-
6	pensation", "benefit year", "base period", "State", "State
7	agency", "State law", and "week" have the respective
8	meanings given such terms under section 205 of the Fed-
9	eral-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of
10	1970.
11	SEC. 108. APPLICABILITY.
12	(a) In General.—An agreement entered into under
13	this title shall apply to weeks of unemployment—
14	(1) beginning after the date on which such
15	agreement is entered into; and
16	(2) ending before January 1, 2003.
17	(b) Specific Rules.—
18	(1) In general.—Under such an agreement,
19	the following rules shall apply:
20	(A) ALTERNATIVE BASE PERIODS.—
21	(i) APPLICABILITY.—The payment of
22	temporary enhanced regular unemployment
23	compensation by reason of the condition
24	described in section 102(b)(2)(A) (relating
25	to alternative base periods) shall not apply

	except in the case of initial claims filed on
2	or after the first day of the week that in-
3	cludes September 11, 2001.

- (ii) Nonretroactivity.—The weekly benefit amount payable with respect to weeks of regular compensation and temporary supplemental unemployment compensation shall not be recalculated as a result of the application of the condition described in clause (i) with respect to an individual who was receiving any unemployment compensation as of the date on which the State enters into such an agreement.
- (B) Part-time employment and increased benefits, respectively) shall apply to weeks of unemployment described in subsection (a), regardless of the date on which an individual's initial claim for benefits is filed.
- (C) ELIGIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY SUPPLE-MENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—

The payment of temporary supplemental unemployment compensation pursuant to section 102(b)(1)(B) shall not apply except in the case of individuals who meet either the condition described in subclause (I) or subclause (II) of clause (i) of such section on or after the first day of the week that includes September 11, 2001.

(2) Reapplication process.—

(A) ALTERNATIVE BASE PERIODS.—In the case of an individual who filed an initial claim for regular compensation on or after the first day of the week that includes September 11, 2001, and before the date that the State entered into an agreement under subsection (a)(1) that was denied as a result of the application of the base period that applied under the State law prior to the date on which the State entered into the such agreement, such individual—

(i) may refile a claim for temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation based on the condition described in section 102(b)(2)(A) (relating to alternative base periods) on or after the date on which the State enters into such agreement

1	and before the date on which such agree-
2	ment terminates; and
3	(ii) if eligible, shall be entitled to such
4	compensation only for weeks of unemploy-
5	ment described in subsection (a) beginning
6	on or after the date on which the indi-
7	vidual files such claim.
8	(B) PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT.—In the
9	case of an individual who before the date that
10	the State entered into an agreement under sub-
11	section (a)(1) was denied regular compensation
12	under the State law's provisions relating to
13	availability for work, active search for work, or
14	refusal to accept work, solely by virtue of the
15	fact that such individual is seeking, or available
16	for, only part-time (and not full-time) work,
17	such individual—
18	(i) may refile a claim for temporary
19	enhanced regular unemployment compensa-
20	tion based on the condition described in
21	section 102(b)(2)(B) (relating to part-time
22	employment) on or after the date on which
23	the State enters into the agreement under
24	subsection (a)(1) and before the date on

which such agreement terminates; and

1	(ii) if eligible, shall be entitled to such
2	compensation only for weeks of unemploy-
3	ment described in subsection (a) beginning
4	on or after the date on which the indi-
5	vidual files such claim.
6	(3) No retroactive payments for weeks
7	PRIOR TO AGREEMENT.—No amounts shall be pay-
8	able to an individual under an agreement entered
9	into under this title for any week of unemployment
10	prior to the week beginning after the date on which
11	such agreement is entered into.
12	SEC. 109. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING CHANGES
13	TO STATE LAW.
14	Nothing in this title shall be construed as requiring
15	a State to modify the laws of such State in order to enter
16	into an agreement under this title or to comply with the
17	provisions of the agreement described in section 102(b).

1	TITLE II—HEALTH INSURANCE
2	COVERAGE OPTIONS FOR RE-
3	CENTLY UNEMPLOYED INDI-
4	VIDUALS AND THEIR FAMI-
5	LIES
6	SEC. 201. PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA CONTINU-
7	ATION COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND
8	THEIR FAMILIES.
9	(a) Establishment.—
10	(1) In general.—Not later than 30 days after
11	the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
12	the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of
13	Labor, shall establish a program under which 75
14	percent of the premium for COBRA continuation
15	coverage shall be provided for an individual who—
16	(A) at any time during the period that be-
17	gins on September 11, 2001, and ends on De-
18	cember 31, 2002, is separated from employ-
19	ment; and
20	(B) is eligible for, and has elected coverage
21	under, COBRA continuation coverage.
22	(2) Inclusion of Certain other individ-
23	UALS.—
24	(A) In general.—For purposes of para-
25	graph (1), the spouse, child, or other individual

who was an insured under health insurance coverage of an individual who was killed as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes on September 11, 2001, or as a result of any other terrorist-related event occurring during the period described in that paragraph, and who is eligible for, and has elected coverage under, COBRA continuation coverage shall be eligible for premium assistance under the program established under this section.

- (B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), an individual who, at any time during the period described in paragraph (1)(A)—
 - (i) elects to take a voluntary leave program offered by their employer after the employer has announced that employee separations will occur as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes on September 11, 2001, or as a result of any other terrorist-related event occurring during the period described in that paragraph;
 - (ii) is eligible under such voluntary leave program, and has elected, to continue their health insurance coverage under a

1	group health plan through payment of 100
2	percent of the premium for such coverage;
3	and
4	(iii) is not eligible for COBRA con-

(iii) is not eligible for COBRA continuation coverage,

shall be eligible for premium assistance for 75 percent of the premium for such health insurance coverage under the program established under this section in the same manner as an individual who is eligible for premium assistance under this section for COBRA continuation coverage.

- (3) TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF ELECTION PERIOD FOR CERTAIN SEPARATED INDIVIDUALS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the election period for COBRA continuation coverage with respect to any individual who meets the requirements of paragraph (1)(A), but for whom such period has expired as of the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not end before the date that is 60 days after the date the individual receives the supplemental notice required under subsection (g)(3).
- (4) Immediate implementation.—The program established under this section shall be implemented without regard to whether or not final regu-

1	lations to carry out such program have been promul-
2	gated by the date described in paragraph (1).
3	(b) Limitation of Period of Premium Assist-
4	ANCE.—
5	(1) In General.—Premium assistance pro-
6	vided in accordance with this section shall end with
7	respect to an individual on the earlier of—
8	(A) the date the individual is no longer
9	covered under COBRA continuation coverage;
10	or
11	(B) 12 months after the date the indi-
12	vidual is first enrolled in the premium assist-
13	ance program established under this section.
14	(2) No assistance after december 31,
15	2002.—No premium assistance may be provided
16	under this section for any month beginning after
17	December 31, 2002.
18	(c) Payment Arrangements; Crediting of As-
19	SISTANCE.—
20	(1) Provision of Assistance.—
21	(A) DIRECT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS.—
22	(i) In General.—Premium assistance
23	shall be provided under the program estab-
24	lished under this section through direct
25	payment arrangements with a group health

plan (including a multiemployer plan), an issuer of health insurance coverage, an administrator, an employer, or other entity, that collects the monthly premium for the COBRA continuation coverage for such individual, as appropriate with respect to the individual provided such assistance.

(ii) Immediate, provisional payment of such assistance shall commence beginning with the month in which the Secretary of the Treasury receives a copy of the eligibility and enrollment forms completed by the individual in accordance with subsection (g). The payment of such assistance shall be subject to verification by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor of the individual's eligibility for such assistance.

(B) ADVANCE PAYMENT; RETROSPECTIVE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury may make payments under this section for each month on the basis of advance estimates of the assistance to be provided under this section and such other investigation as the Secretary of the

Treasury may find necessary, and may reduce or increase the payments as necessary to adjust for any overpayment or underpayment for prior

months.

- (2) Premiums payable by individual re-6 DUCED BY AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Premium as-7 sistance provided under this section shall be credited 8 by the group health plan, issuer of health insurance 9 coverage, or an administrator against the premium 10 otherwise owed by the individual involved for 11 COBRA continuation coverage. Such coverage shall 12 not be terminated based on a failure to pay the full 13 amount of the monthly premium owed for the cov-14 erage if an individual is current with the non-sub-15 sidized portion of the monthly premium for the cov-
- 17 (d) APPLICATION OF FRAUD PREVENTION PROVI-18 SIONS.—Sections 1128A and 1128B of the Social Security 19 Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7a, 1320a-7b) shall apply to the 20 provision of premium assistance under this section.
- 21 (e) LIMITATION ON ENTITLEMENT.—Nothing in this 22 section shall be construed as establishing any entitlement 23 of individuals described in paragraph (1) or (2) of sub-24 section (a) to premium assistance under this section.

16

erage.

1 (f) DISREGARD OF SUBSIDIES FOR PURPOSES OF
2 FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any
3 other provision of law, any premium assistance provided
4 to, or on behalf of, an individual under this section, shall
5 not be considered income or resources in determining eligi6 bility for, or the amount of assistance or benefits provided
7 under, any other Federal public benefit or State or local
8 public benefit.

(g) Implementation Requirements.—

(1) CHANGE IN COBRA NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of notices provided under section 4980B(f)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2206 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-6), section 606 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166), or section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, with respect to individuals who, during the period described in subsection (a)(1)(A), become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, such notices shall include an additional notification to the recipient of the availability of premium assistance for such coverage under this section and for temporary medicaid assistance under section 203 for the

1	remaining portion of COBRA continuation pre-
2	miums, in accordance with the requirements of
3	this subsection.
4	(B) ALTERNATIVE NOTICE.—In the case of
5	COBRA continuation coverage to which the no-
6	tice provision under such sections does not
7	apply, the Secretary of the Treasury, in con-
8	sultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall, in
9	coordination with administrators of the group
10	health plans (or other entities) that provide or
11	administer the COBRA continuation coverage
12	involved, assure the provision of such notice.
13	(C) FORM.—The requirement of the addi-
14	tional notification under this paragraph may be
15	met by amendment of existing notice forms or
16	by inclusion of a separate document with the
17	notice otherwise required.
18	(2) Specific requirements.—Each additional
19	notification under paragraph (1) shall include the
20	following:
21	(A) The forms necessary for establishing

eligibility and enrollment in the premium assistance program established under this section in connection with the COBRA continuation cov-

1	erage with respect to individuals described in
2	paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a).
3	(B) The following displayed in a prominent
4	manner:
5	(i) The name, address, and telephone
6	number necessary to contact the employer,
7	administrator, and any other person main-
8	taining relevant information in connection
9	with how to enroll for the premium assist-
10	ance.
11	(ii) The toll-free telephone number
12	and Internet website address established
13	under paragraph (4)(A)(i).
14	(iii) The name, address, and telephone
15	number for the group health plan (includ-
16	ing a multiemployer plan), issuer of health
17	insurance coverage, administrator, an em-
18	ployer, or other entity (as appropriate with
19	respect to the individual) that will collect
20	the monthly premium for such coverage
21	specifying that the eligibility and enroll-
22	ment forms are to be completed by the in-
23	dividual and sent to such entity.
24	(iv) The following statement:

1 "You may be eligible to receive assistance with pay-

2 ment of 75 percent of your COBRA continuation coverage

3 premiums and with temporary medicaid coverage for the

4 remaining premium portion for a duration of not to exceed

5 12 months. This assistance will not be available after De-

6 cember 31, 2002. Return the enclosed eligibility and en-

7 rollment forms as soon as possible to the address speci-

8 fied.".

- (C) The dollar amount equal to 25 percent of the monthly 2002 premium that would be owed during 2002 by each the individual for the coverage if the individual is eligible for, and enrolls in, the program established under this section.
 - (3) SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE FOR INDIVIDUALS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED NOTICE OR WHOSE ELECTION PERIOD IS TEMPORARILY EXTENDED.—In the case of such notices previously transmitted before the date of enactment of this Act in the case of an individual described in paragraph (1) or subsection (a)(2) who has elected (or is still eligible to elect, including as a result of subsection (a)(3)) COBRA continuation coverage as of the date of enactment of this Act, the employer, administrator, or other entity involved, or the Secretary of the Treasury, in con-

1	sultation with the Secretary of Labor, (in the case
2	described in the paragraph (1)(B)) shall provide
3	(within the period required under paragraph
4	(4)(C)(i)) for the additional notification required to
5	be provided under this subsection.
6	(4) Required timeline.—
7	(A) Secretary of Labor.—Not later
8	than 15 days after the date of enactment of
9	this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall—
10	(i) establish a toll-free telephone num-
11	ber and an Internet website to provide in-
12	formation and answer inquiries about the
13	program established under this section;
14	(ii) prescribe models for the additional
15	notification required under this subsection
16	and the forms necessary for establishing
17	eligibility and enrollment in the program,
18	in accordance with the requirements of this
19	subsection; and
20	(iii) consult with the Secretary of the
21	Treasury regarding the additional notifica-
22	tion required for individuals described in
23	paragraph (1)(B).
24	(B) Secretary of the treasury.—Not
25	later than 15 days after the date of enactment

1	of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury
2	shall—
3	(i) notify each covered employer of the
4	program established under this section and
5	the additional notification required under
6	this subsection;
7	(ii) make the model notification, and
8	eligibility and enrollment forms prescribed
9	by the Secretary of Labor under subpara-
10	graph (A)(ii) available to each such cov-
11	ered employer; and
12	(iii) provide, in consultation with the
13	Secretary of Labor, the additional notifica-
14	tion required for individuals described in
15	paragraph (1)(B).
16	(C) COVERED EMPLOYERS.—Not later
17	than 15 days after the model notification and
18	eligibility and enrollment forms are made avail-
19	able under subparagraph (B)(ii), each covered
20	employer or their designee shall—
21	(i) provide the additional notification
22	required under this subsection to the indi-
23	viduals described in paragraph (3) (other
24	than such individuals who are also de-
25	scribed in paragraph (1)(B)); and

- 1 (ii) be able to comply with such addi-2 tional notification requirement in the case 3 of any individual described in paragraph (1)(A). (D)DEFINITION OF COVERED EM-6 PLOYER.—For purposes of this section, the term "covered employer" means, for any cal-7 8 endar year, any person on whom an excise tax 9 is imposed under section 3111 or 1401 of the 10 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to 11 having an individual in the person's employ to 12 whom wages are paid by such person during 13 such calendar year. 14 (h) Reports.—Beginning on January 1, 2002, and 15 every 3 months thereafter until January 1, 2003, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit a report to Congress 16 17 regarding the premium assistance program established 18 under this section that includes the following:
- 19 (1) The status of the implementation of the 20 program.
- 21 (2) The number of individuals provided assist-22 ance under the program as of the date of the report.
- 23 (3) The average dollar amount (monthly and annually) of the premium assistance provided under the program.

1	(4) The total amount of expenditures incurred
2	(with administrative expenditures noted separately)
3	under the program as of the date of the report.
4	(i) Appropriation.—
5	(1) In general.—Out of any funds in the
6	Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
7	priated to carry out this section, such sums as are
8	necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003.
9	(2) Obligation of funds.—This section con-
10	stitutes budget authority in advance of appropria-
11	tions Acts and represents the obligation of the Fed-
12	eral Government to provide for the payment of pre-
13	mium assistance under this section.
14	(j) Sunset.—No premium assistance may be pro-
15	vided under this section for any month beginning after De-
16	cember 31, 2002.
17	SEC. 202. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY MED-
18	ICAID COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN UNINSURED
19	INDIVIDUALS.
20	(a) State Option.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
21	vision of law, a State may elect to provide under its med-
22	icaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act
23	medical assistance in the case of an individual—

1	(1) who at any time during the period that be-
2	gins on September 11, 2001, and ends on December
3	31, 2002, is separated from employment;
4	(2) who is not eligible for COBRA continuation
5	coverage;
6	(3) who is uninsured; and
7	(4) whose assets, resources, and earned or un-
8	earned income (or both) do not exceed such limita-
9	tions (if any) as the State may establish.
10	(b) Limitation of Period of Coverage.—Medical
11	assistance provided in accordance with this section shall
12	end with respect to an individual on the earlier of—
13	(1) the date the individual is no longer unin-
14	sured; or
15	(2) subject to subsection (e)(4), 12 months
16	after the date the individual first receives such as-
17	sistance.
18	(c) Special Rules.—In the case of medical assist-
19	ance provided under this section—
20	(1) the Federal medical assistance percentage
21	under section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42
22	U.S.C. 1396d(b)) shall be the enhanced FMAP (as
23	defined in section 2105(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
24	1397ee(b)));

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- (2) a State may elect to apply any income, asset, or resource limitation permitted under the State medicaid plan or under title XIX of such Act;
- (3) the provisions of section 1916(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396o) shall apply to the provision of such assistance in the same manner as the provisions of such section apply with respect to individuals provided medical assistance only under subclause (XV)or(XVI) of section U.S.C. 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of such Act (42)1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii));
 - (4) a State may elect to provide such assistance in accordance with section 1902(a)(34) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(34)) and any assistance provided with respect to a month described in that section shall not be included in the determination of the 12-month period under subsection (b)(2);
 - (5) a State may elect to make eligible for such medical assistance a dependent spouse or children of an individual eligible for medical assistance under subsection (a), if such spouse or children are uninsured;
- (6) individuals eligible for medical assistance under this section shall be deemed to be described

- in the list of individuals described in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of section 1905(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a));
- (7) a State may elect to provide such medical 5 assistance without regard to any limitation under 6 sections 401(a), 402(b), 403, and 421 of the Per-7 sonal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Rec-8 onciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(a), 1612(b), 9 1613, and 1631) and no debt shall accrue under an 10 affidavit of support against any sponsor of an indi-11 vidual who is an alien who is provided such assist-12 ance, and the cost of such assistance shall not be 13 considered as an unreimbursed cost; and
 - (8) the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not count, for purposes of section 1108(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308(f)), such amount of payments under this section as bears a reasonable relationship to the average national proportion of payments made under this section for the 50 States and the District of Columbia to the payments otherwise made under title XIX for such States and District.
- 23 (d) Sunset.—No medical assistance may be provided 24 under this section for any month beginning after Decem-25 ber 31, 2002.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

1	SEC. 203. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY COV
2	ERAGE UNDER MEDICAID FOR THE UNSUB-
3	SIDIZED PORTION OF COBRA CONTINUATION
4	PREMIUMS.
5	(a) State Option.—
6	(1) In General.—Notwithstanding any other
7	provision of law, a State may elect to provide under
8	its medicaid program under title XIX of the Social
9	Security Act medical assistance in the form of pay-
10	ment for the portion of the premium for COBRA
11	continuation coverage for which an individual does
12	not receive a subsidy under the premium assistance
13	program established under section 201 in the case of
14	an individual—
15	(A) who at any time during the period that
16	begins on September 11, 2001, and ends on De-
17	cember 31, 2002, is separated from employ-
18	ment;
19	(B) who is eligible for, and has elected cov-
20	erage under, COBRA continuation coverage;
21	(C) who is receiving premium assistance
22	under the program established under section
23	201; and
24	(D) whose family income does not exceed
25	200 percent of the poverty line.

1	(2) Inclusion of Certain Individuals.—For
2	purposes of paragraph (1), the spouse, child, or
3	other individual who was an insured under health in-
4	surance coverage of an individual who was killed as
5	a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes on
6	September 11, 2001, or as a result of any other ter-
7	rorist-related event occurring during the period de-
8	scribed in that paragraph, and who satisfies the re-
9	quirements of subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of
10	paragraph (1) shall be eligible for medical assistance
11	under this section.
12	(b) Limitation of Period of Coverage.—Medical
13	assistance provided in accordance with this section shall
14	end with respect to an individual on the earlier of—
15	(1) the date the individual is no longer covered
16	under COBRA continuation coverage; or
17	(2) 12 months after the date the individual first
18	receives such assistance under this section.
19	(c) Special Rules.—In the case of medical assist-
20	ance provided under this section—
21	(1) such assistance may be provided without re-
22	gard to—
23	(A) whether the State otherwise has elect-
24	ed to make medical assistance available for
25	COBRA premiums under section

1 1902(a)(10)(F) of the Social Security Act (42) 2 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(F); or 3 (B) the conditions otherwise imposed for 4 the provision of medical assistance for such 5 COBRA premiums under clause (XII) of the 6 matter following section 1902(a)(10)(G) of the 7 Social Security Act (42)U.S.C. 8 1396a(a)(10)(G), orparagraphs (1)(B),9 (1)(C), (1)(D), and (4) of section 1902(u) of 10 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(u)); and 11 (2) paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (7), and (8) 12 of subsection (c) of section 202 apply to such assist-13 ance in the same manner as such paragraphs apply 14 to the provision of medical assistance under that sec-15 tion. 16 (d) Sunset.—No medical assistance may be provided under this section for any month beginning after Decem-18 ber 31, 2002. 19 SEC. 204. TEMPORARY INCREASES OF MEDICAID FMAP FOR 20 FISCAL YEAR 2002. 21 (a) Permitting Maintenance of Fiscal Year 22 2001 FMAP.—Notwithstanding any other provision of 23 law, but subject to subsection (d), if the FMAP determined without regard to this section for a State for fiscal year 2002 is less than the FMAP as so determined for

- 1 fiscal year 2001, the FMAP for the State for fiscal year
- 2 2001 shall be substituted for the State's FMAP for fiscal
- 3 year 2002, before the application of this section.
- 4 (b) General 1.50 Percentage Points In-
- 5 CREASE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, but
- 6 subject to subsections (d) and (e), for each State for each
- 7 calendar quarter in fiscal year 2002, the FMAP (taking
- 8 into account the application of subsection (a)) shall be in-
- 9 creased by 1.50 percentage points.
- 10 (c) Further Increase for States With High
- 11 Unemployment Rates.—
- 12 (1) In General.—Notwithstanding any other 13 provision of law, but subject to subsections (d) and 14 (e), the FMAP for a high unemployment State for 15 a calendar quarter in fiscal year 2002 (and any sub-16 sequent calendar quarter in such fiscal year regard-17 less of whether the State continues to be a high un-18 employment State for a calendar quarter in such fis-19 cal year) shall be increased (after the application of 20 subsections (a) and (b)) by 1.50 percentage points.
 - (2) High unemployment state.—For purposes of this subsection, a State is a high unemployment State for a calendar quarter if, for any 3 consecutive months beginning on or after June 2001 and ending with the second month before the begin-

22

23

24

- 1 ning of the calendar quarter, the State has an unem-
- 2 ployment rate that exceeds the national average un-
- 3 employment rate. Such unemployment rates for such
- 4 months shall be determined based on publications of
- 5 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of
- 6 Labor.
- 7 (d) 1-YEAR INCREASE IN CAP ON MEDICAID PAY-
- 8 MENTS TO TERRITORIES.—Notwithstanding any other
- 9 provision of law, with respect to fiscal year 2002, the
- 10 amounts otherwise determined for Puerto Rico, the Virgin
- 11 Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Amer-
- 12 ican Samoa under section 1108 of the Social Security Act
- 13 (42 U.S.C. 1308) shall each be increased by an amount
- 14 equal to 3.093 percentage points of such amounts.
- 15 (e) Scope of Application.—The increases in the
- 16 FMAP for a State under this section shall apply only for
- 17 purposes of title XIX of the Social Security Act and shall
- 18 not apply with respect to—
- 19 (1) disproportionate share hospital payments
- described in section 1923 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
- 21 1396r-4); and
- (2) payments under titles IV and XXI of such
- 23 Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq. and 1397aa et seq.).
- 24 (f) STATE ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible for an
- 25 increase in its FMAP under subsection (b) or (c) only if

- 1 the eligibility under its State plan under title XIX of the
- 2 Social Security Act (including any waiver under such title
- 3 or under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315)) is
- 4 no more restrictive than the eligibility under such plan (or
- 5 waiver) as in effect on October 1, 2001.

6 SEC. 205. DEFINITIONS.

7 In this title:

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- 8 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "adminis-9 trator" has the meaning given that term in section 10 3(16)(A) of the Employee Retirement Income Secu-11 rity Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(16)(A)).
 - (2) COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—
 - (A) IN GENERAL.—The term "COBRA continuation coverage" means coverage under a group health plan provided by an employer pursuant to title XXII of the Public Health Service Act, section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, part 6 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or section 8905a of title 5, United States Code.
 - (B) APPLICATION IN STATES REQUIRING SUCH COVERAGE.—Such term includes such continuation coverage provided in a State that has enacted a law that requires such continu-

- ation coverage even though the continuation coverage would not otherwise be required under the provisions of law referred to in subparagraph (A).
 - (3) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term "covered employee" has the meaning given that term in section 607(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1167(2)).
 - (4) ELECTION PERIOD.—The term "election period" has the meaning given that term in section 605(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1165(1)).
 - (5) FEDERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT.—The term "Federal public benefit" has the meaning given that term in section 401(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(c)).
 - (6) FMAP.—The term "FMAP" means the Federal medical assistance percentage, as defined in section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)).
- 22 (7) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term "group 23 health plan" has the meaning given that term in sec-24 tion 2791(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 25 U.S.C. 300gg-91(a)), section 607(1) of the Em-

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

- 1 ployee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29) 2 U.S.C. 1167(1)), and section 4980B(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. 3 4 (8) Health insurance coverage.—The term "health insurance coverage" has the meaning given 5 6 that term in section 2791(b)(1) of the Public Health 7 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(b)(1)). 8 (9) Multiemployer Plan.—The term "multi-9 employer plan" has the meaning given that term in 10 section 3(37) of the Employee Retirement Income 11 Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(37)). 12 (10) POVERTY LINE.—The term "poverty line" 13 the meaning given that term in section 14 2110(c)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 15 1397jj(c)(5). (11) STATE.—The term "State" has the mean-16 17 ing given such term for purposes of title XIX of the 18 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seg.). 19 (12) STATE OR LOCAL PUBLIC BENEFIT.—The 20 term "State or local public benefit" has the meaning 21 given that term in section 411(c) of the Personal 22 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
- 24 (13) Uninsured.—

Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1621(c)).

1	(A) In General.—The term "uninsured"
2	means, with respect to an individual, that the
3	individual is not covered under—
4	(i) a group health plan;
5	(ii) health insurance coverage; or
6	(iii) a program under title XVIII,
7	XIX, or XXI of the Social Security Act
8	(other than under such title XIX pursuant
9	to section 202).
10	(B) Exclusion.—Such coverage under
11	clause (i) or (ii) shall not include coverage con-
12	sisting solely of coverage of excepted benefits
13	(as defined in section 2791(c) of the Public
14	Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(c)).

Calendar No. 238

107TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 1732

A BILL

To provide incentives for an economic recovery and relief for victims of terrorism, and for other purposes.

NOVEMBER 28, 2001

Read the second time and placed on the calendar